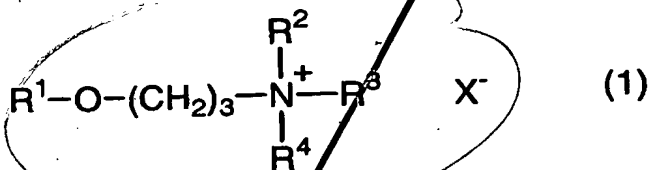


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A hair cosmetic composition comprising an ether type cationic surfactant represented by the following formula (1):



wherein,

$\text{R}^1$  represents a linear or branched  $\text{C}_{6-24}$  alkyl or alkenyl group,

$\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^4$  each represents a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group or  $\text{-(AO)}_n\text{H}$  (in which A represents a  $\text{C}_{2-4}$  alkylene group and n stands for a number from 1 to 6 with the proviso that n pieces of A may be the same or different and the sequence thereof is optional), value ?

$\text{R}^3$  represents a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group, a benzyl group or  $\text{-(A'O)}_m\text{H}$  (in which  $\text{A}'$  represents a  $\text{C}_{2-4}$  alkylene group and m stands for a number of from 1 to 6 with the proviso that m pieces of  $\text{A}'$  may be the same or different and the sequence thereof is optional), and

$\text{X}^-$  represents an anion.

2. The hair cosmetic composition of claim 1, which contains the ether type cationic surfactant of the formula (1) in an amount of 0.1 to 20 wt.%. 2

3. The hair cosmetic composition of claim 1, further

containing a surfactant other than the compound of the formula (1).

4. The hair cosmetic composition of claim 3, wherein the surfactant other than the compound of the formula (1) is at least one selected from cationic, anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants.

5. The hair cosmetic composition of claim 4, wherein the surfactant other than the compound of the formula (1) is a cationic surfactant.

6. The hair cosmetic composition of any one of claims 1 to 5, further comprising an oil component.

7. The hair cleansing composition of claim 1, which comprises:

(a) an ether type cationic surfactant represented by the formula (1), and

(b) at least one surfactant selected from cationic, anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants.

8. The hair cleansing composition of claim 7, further comprising a cationic surfactant other than component (a).

9. The hair cleansing composition of claim 7, wherein the content of (b) is 0.1 to 50 wt.% and the ratio (a)/(b) ranges from 1/1 to 1/100.

10. The hair cleansing composition of any one of claims 7 to 9, further comprising an oil component.

11. A method for treating hair by using the hair cosmetic composition of claim 1.

12. A method for shampooing hair by using the hair  
cleansing composition of claim 7.

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